

projects. It will also improve the financial viability of new mining projects.

- (iii) The capital base of Coal India Limited has been restructured which will enable it to raise additional financial resources from the capital markets which are required to add new coal production capacity.
- (iv) Steps are being taken in co-ordination with the Railways to remove the transportation bottlenecks in such coalfield areas which have potential for enhanced production.
- (v) Steps are being taken to remove the bottlenecks in land acquisition and forest land clearance for speedier implementation of coal projects.
- (vi) Private sector companies engaged in production of iron and steel, cement and generation of power have been permitted to take up coal mining for captive consumption. This is expected to increase domestic coal production and availability.
- (vii) To attract private investment in the coal sector, Government has decided to move a Bill to make the necessary legislative changes relating to coal mining to enable any Indian company to mine coal and lignite for sale.

Foreign Investment

1197. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE :
SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN :
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of proposals from foreign investors are pending with Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB);

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons for delay in taking decision on them; and

(c) the number of foreign investment proposals cleared by the FIPB upto December 31, 1996?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) At present, there are around 90 applications pending before FIPB. Receipt and consideration of applications by FIPB for foreign investment is a continuous process. If the applications conform to the parameters for approval, such approval is normally given within a period of 4 to 6 weeks of the filing of application.

(c) From August, 1991 to December, 1996, a total number of 3583 proposals envisaging a foreign investment of Rs. 889.6 billion have been cleared by the FIPB.

Licence Applications Pending with DGFT

1198. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a huge backlog of applications for various type of licences and minor amendments in licences pending in the Office of Director General of Foreign Trade;

(b) if so, how many cases of advance licence applications are pending for minor amendments/revalidation in DGFT Headquarters and DGFT offices as on December 1996, State-wise, and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to expedite these cases within the time limit framed by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) There is no backlog of applications of various types of licences and for minor amendments/revalidations pending in Hqrs. DGFT office and regional offices of DGFT.

(b) Information pertaining to advance licences is not maintained Statewise.

(c) Every endeavour is made by the licensing authorities to dispose off the applications for minor amendments/revalidations expeditiously within the time limit prescribed in this behalf under para 258 of the Hand Book of Procedures, Vol. I. Receipts and disposals of such cases is a continuous and ongoing process and constant monitoring is done to ensure time bound disposal. Specific instances of delays are normally brought up in Open Houses and are dealt with on the spot. Further there are Grievance Committees headed by DGFT at Hqrs. and Zonal Heads in the four zones to deal with such cases. Counter Assistance Cells have also been functioning in the various offices for the purpose of export facilitation.

[Translation]

Lal Matia Coai Mines

1199. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the number of villages uprooted due to Lal Matia Mines and the arrangements made for their rehabilitation till now and the number of families who have lost their fields given employment;

(b) whether it is a fact that neither all the displaced families have been rehabilitated nor given employment and

(c) if so, the action being taken by the Government without further delay in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) So far due to mining operation in Lal Matia mines (Raimahal OCF)

three villages Viz. Bara Simra, Ghat Simra and Hijukitta have been affected. Number of families so far affected in these three villages and status of their rehabilitation is as under :

Name of village	Total No. of families affected	No. of families so far displaced and rehabilitated	No. of balance affected families to be displaced and rehabilitated
1. Bara Simra	262	262	—
2. Ghat Simra	33	29	4
3. Hijukitta	104	25	79
	399	316	83

Till date, 924 land losers have been provided employment.

(b) and (c) Not applicable as families displaced have been rehabilitated and the remaining affected families shall be rehabilitated when displaced.

[English]

Trade Relation with UK

1200. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether India and United Kingdom have decided to improve the trade between the two countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the recent visit of the Prime Minister of UK with a delegation of businessmen have decided to strengthen the trade between the two countries;

(d) if so, whether a number of agreements in this regard were signed between India and the UK; and

(e) if so, the details thereof, and to what extent the trade between the two countries will be strengthened during 1997-98?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (e) It is Government's constant endeavour to improve trade relations with all countries including United Kingdom. During the recent visit to India of the Prime Minister of UK with a delegation of businessmen, joint ventures and agreements between private companies from UK and India were signed. These joint ventures and agreements included the sectors of insurance, telecommunications, software, engineering goods, marketing of real estate development etc. These interactions between the businessmen on either side is expected to result in greater economic and commercial cooperation.

[Translation]

National Sericulture Project

1201. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY :
SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether lack of disbursement of adequate loan is a main reason for the delay in implementation of the National Sericulture Project;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken for the speedy implementation of the National Sericulture Project?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) Disbursement of credit has not been a constraint in the implementation of the National Sericulture Project as funds had been placed in a special account by the World Bank replenishable periodically, upon depletion, on account of reimbursement claims by the implementing agencies of the project.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The project which commenced in 1989 has closed on 31st December, 1996.

Assistance to Mauritius

1202. SHRI KACHARU BHAU RAUT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government propose to give loan to Mauritius;

(b) if so, the total amount of loan proposed to be given to Mauritius and the purpose therefor;

(c) the details of the steps taken to improve Indo-Mauritius economic relation and also to expend trade relation between both the countries;

(d) whether such type of loan was given to other countries also;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether such type of assistance was also given to India by other countries; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) The Government of India (GOI) have signed a US\$ 3 Million agreement with Mauritius during the recently held Joint Commission Meeting (3rd to 5th February, 1997) held in Port-Louis, Mauritius. The said credit line offered by India would be utilised for the export of capital goods and equipment consumer durables and consultancy services.